



# New Mexico Judiciary

Annual Report  
Fiscal Year 2015

## **Acknowledgements**

On the Cover: the Law Library in the Supreme Court Building, which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

This report was prepared with special assistance from Administrative Office of the Courts staff, court personnel and judges across the state.

Graphics Design – Helen Gaussoin, GrafText

Editorial Design – Barry Massey

Printing – State Printing and Graphic Design Services, New Mexico General Services Department

Statistical Addendum – Joseph Vigil, Judicial Information Division

# Contents

02	Message from the Chief Justice
02	Message from the Director
03	Year in Review
05	Case Management Order
06	The Courts
18	Court Programs and Services
22	Equal Access to Justice
24	Children and Family Services Department
26	Technology and Case Management
26	Supreme Court Law Library
27	Supreme Court Building Commission
27	New Mexico Compilation Commission
28	Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission
28	Human Resources Division
Inside Back Cover	State Court Map



## About this report

The Administrative Office of the Courts is required by law to submit an annual report to the New Mexico Supreme Court and the Legislature. NMSA 1978, § 34-9-3. This report is an overview of the Judiciary's accomplishments during the 2015 fiscal year (July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015) and includes a summary of statistical data for New Mexico's appellate, district, metropolitan and magistrate courts.

The report as well as the complete Statistical Addendum can be found at [www.nmcourts.gov](http://www.nmcourts.gov)

For more information contact:  
Barry Massey, Communications Officer  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
237 Don Gaspar  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501  
Phone: (505) 827-4805

# Message *from the* Chief Justice

As Chief Justice, I am pleased to share the New Mexico Judiciary's fiscal year 2015 annual report with you. In addition to the many substantial and diverse accomplishments outlined in the following pages, the Judiciary has undertaken a long-term planning process to ensure that our courts are able to fulfill their constitutional obligations to each and every New Mexican well into the future. We have identified five core components which are fundamental to a strong and independent Judiciary:

- ◆ Employees who are well-qualified, well-trained and competitively compensated;
- ◆ Judges who are well-qualified, well-trained and competitively compensated;



- ◆ Facilities, equipment, technology, and the operating resources necessary to meet the justice needs of all New Mexicans;
- ◆ Court services that are responsive to the needs of the public; and
- ◆ Court security that ensures the safety of the public, court employees, and judges.

A strong, fair and independent Judiciary is the cornerstone of our democratic system of government and benefits every segment of our society. As always, we remain committed to strengthening our court system and improving our core operations to best serve all New Mexicans.

Atentamente a su servicio,

Chief Justice Barbara J. Vigil

# Message *from the* Director

The 2015 annual report again reflects the diversity of dedicated work accomplished across New Mexico by judges and judicial branch employees. Although courts continue to struggle to have adequate resources, great progress is being made throughout the Judiciary. The report documents trends that include substantial numbers of trials and the continuing growth in cases with self-represented litigants. The implementation of electronic payments and expansion of electronic filing in 2015 show how courts are using



technology to work smarter and meet the needs of today's litigants. Increased funding has allowed expansion of problem-solving court services. New Mexico courts continue to be at the forefront of language access nationwide.

The many accomplishments seen in the report reflect the energy and commitment by court employees. A statewide array of clerks, court man-

agers, financial specialists, and personnel in many different aspects of the Judiciary are the most critical resource needed to empower judges to deliver fair and impartial justice. I commend each of these employees, whose good work is apparent in the 2015 annual report.

Arthur W. Pepin, Director  
Administrative Office of the Courts



# July 2014 to June 2015

**July** Supreme Court signs order to eliminate separate jury orientations, a cost-saving step that also improves the experience of New Mexicans called for jury duty.

Judicial Information System Council's Online Access Committee hosts public meeting on plans to make court documents available online to registered users and the public.

**August** Senior Justice Petra Jimenez Maes and Court Improvement Staff attend National Leadership Summit on School Discipline and Climate, providing an opportunity to strengthen partnerships and develop steps to advance juvenile justice reform.

**September** Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission releases recommendations to voters on 85 judges standing for retention election.

Language Access Services Symposium held for state and municipal court specialists in language access and for bilingual employees of district attorneys, public defenders, state police and other state agencies.

Administrative Office of the Courts receives federal grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance for statewide drug court certification.

**October** Joint Education Summit held in Albuquerque to address barriers to educational success for children and youth in foster care and juvenile justice system. The summit was a recommendation of the Joint Education Task Force formed by the New Mexico Supreme Court.

Supreme Court proclaims Mediation Week in New Mexico, commending individuals and organizations that make mediation services available to citizens.

**November** Supreme Court issues decision in *State v. Brown*, 2014-NMSC-038, stating that a judge cannot base a defendant's pretrial release conditions solely on the severity of the charged offense.

**December** AOC Director Arthur Pepin selected for the 2015 Warren E. Burger Award for Excellence in Judiciary Administration by the National Center for State Courts.



Supreme Court issues opinion in *State ex rel. Cisneros v. Martinez*, 2015-NMSC-001, holding there is broad discretion for the Legislature in how it establishes salaries in the state budget bill.

Twenty-eight new Magistrate Court

judges complete training program to provide them with a legal foundation for serving on the bench.

**January** Chief Justice Barbara Vigil delivers the State of the Judiciary address to a



joint session of the Legislature, stressing that "all of New Mexico will benefit" from an adequately funded court system.

Judges, lawyers, educators, child welfare workers, foster parents and others attend Children's Law Institute for updates on best practices and legal issues about child welfare and juvenile justice.

Court of Appeals Judge Michael E. Vigil sworn in as chief judge of the 10-member court.

**February** Case management rule implemented in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District to speed up the resolution of felony cases.

Supreme Court establishes Ad Hoc Pretrial Release Committee to consider bail system reforms.

State courts launch system allowing online payments of traffic tickets as well as fines and fees owed in criminal cases in Magistrate Courts and the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court.

# Year in Review

**March** Legislature approves \$627,700 increase in statewide funding for drug court programs in the General Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2016.

New jury management system is funded with \$780,000 from the Legislature.

**April** Supreme Court Clerk Joey Moya named Public Lawyer of the Year by the State Bar of New Mexico.

Juror Appreciation Week is recognized in New Mexico by Chief Justice Barbara Vigil.

**May** Council of Language Access Coordinators meets in Santa Fe and Justice Edward Chavez delivers the conference's keynote address.



The League of Women Voters of New Mexico recognizes Chief Justice Barbara Vigil for her "outstanding service and her commitment to fairness in administering the laws of New Mexico."

National Drug Court Institute provides a two-day training session for drug court judges.

2nd Judicial District Court Judge Carl Butkus named State District Court Judge of the Year for 2015 by the American Board of Trial Advocates.

**June** Justice Richard Bosson announces plan to retire at the end of October, having served 13 years on the state's highest court and eight years on the Court of Appeals.

State courts and the Administrative Office of the Courts receive \$4.1 million during the Legislature's special session to finance capital improvement projects.

Supreme Court issues order to continue the work of Bernalillo County Criminal Justice Review Commission.

Online training launched for attorneys to help implement requirement for electronic filing of certain domestic relations cases in district court.

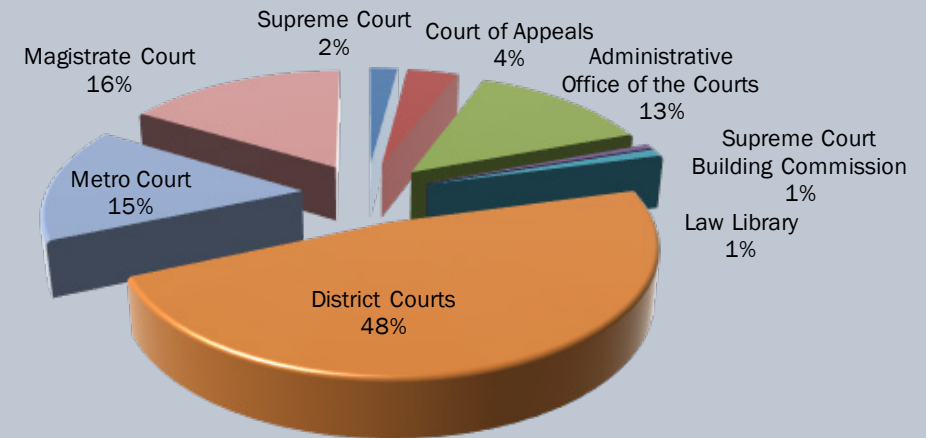
Judicial Conclave held for professional development of judges, domestic violence commissioners, hearing officers and court attorneys.

## By the Numbers

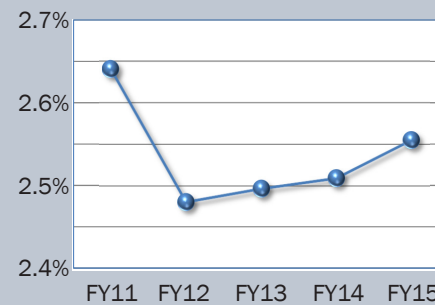
The Judiciary received a general fund appropriation of \$157.1 million in the 2015 fiscal year, representing a 6.3 percent increase over the previous year. In addition, the Judiciary's unified budget included \$31.3 million in other funds such as earmarked fees and revenues and federal grants.

Total general fund appropriations were \$6.15 billion in FY15 for all state government operations, including public education.

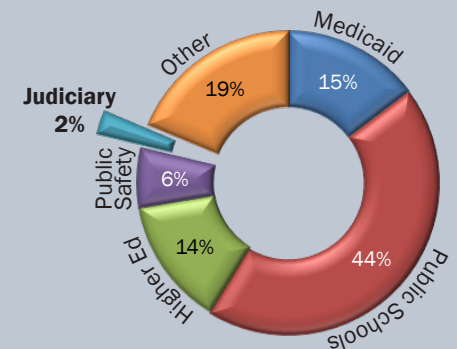
### FY15 General Fund Operating Budget, New Mexico Judiciary



### Judiciary Share of General Fund



### General Fund Appropriations FY15



# Case Management Order

Few initiatives in New Mexico have changed criminal justice more than a case management order implemented in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District in February 2015. Often referred to as the CMO, new rules of criminal procedure (LR2-400 and LR2-400.1) ensure the justice system in Bernalillo County functions fairly, efficiently and effectively for the benefit of victims, defendants and the public. The rules require felony criminal cases to go to trial within six months or up to a year depending on a case's complexity and whether a defendant is in custody. The Supreme Court adopted an order in November 2014 for strict time limits to reduce a backlog of about 3,000 cases, some of which had been pending for years, and to ensure fair and speedy justice for criminal defendants as well as victims of crime and their families. Bernalillo County and its taxpayers will benefit from the lower cost of having fewer defendants in jail awaiting the resolution of their charges.

The CMO appears to be working as intended, although it was in effect for only five months during fiscal year 2015. It's anticipated that the Supreme Court, in response to feedback from the District Court, prosecutors, defense counsel and law enforcement, will adjust some procedural deadlines to ease the strain on criminal justice resources without a return to old practices.

Under the CMO, a three-track system is used for assigning cases. The simplest cases must

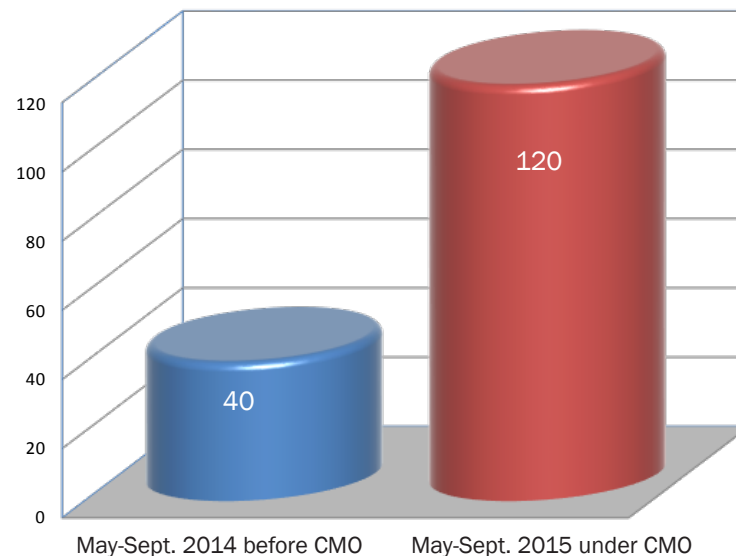
go to trial within six months. Trial must start within nine months for the next level of cases. The most complex cases, which potentially include murder cases, are to be brought to trial within a year. There are deadlines for the procedural steps for preparing a case for trial or a plea agreement. Delays in the exchange of evidence by prosecutors and defense attorneys have stalled some

cases for years. Without the CMO's firm deadlines for discovery, pretrial interviews cannot be conducted, pretrial motions cannot be filed and cases do not move forward for a timely resolution. To enforce the newly implemented

deadlines, judges can impose sanctions that range from exclusion of evidence to dismissal of a case. Judges also have adopted a cooperative approach to handling cases. If a judge is not available for a scheduled hearing or trial, another judge will handle that to avoid a scheduling delay. Previously, a case would have been continued if the assigned judge was unavailable.

The outcome of this difficult transition is a criminal justice system that fosters an expectation in which charges are brought when discovery can be provided and most cases will be resolved within six months and beyond one year in almost no instance.

**2nd Judicial District Jury Trials under Case Management Order**





# Supreme Court

The Supreme Court is the highest court in the State of New Mexico. It is the final authority on questions of law and can review decisions of the Court of Appeals as well as district courts. Appeals in capital criminal cases, Public Regulation Commission decisions and election challenges go directly to the Court. The Supreme Court determines the rules of practice and procedure for the State Bar and all state courts. It exercises supervisory control over state courts in New Mexico, including municipal and probate courts. Local

governments fund municipal and probate courts, which are not part of the Judiciary's unified budget process and are not overseen by the Administrative Office of the Courts. The Constitution authorizes the Supreme Court to order certain remedies through issuing extraordinary writs. The Court also acts on recommendations by investigatory boards and commissions for disciplining judges and attorneys and oversees the admission and regulation of attorneys in New Mexico.



*Standing Left to Right: Justice Edward L. Chavez and Justice Charles W. Daniels.  
Seated Left to Right: Justice Petra Jimenez Maes, Chief Justice Barbara J. Vigil and Justice Richard C. Bosson*

In FY2015, Justice Richard C. Bosson announced his plan to retire at the end of October. Justice Bosson joined the Supreme Court in December 2002, and was Chief Justice in 2005-2006. He previously was a judge on the Court of Appeals for eight years before joining the Supreme Court.



# Court of Appeals

The Court of Appeals is the first and often final appellate court for most types of cases. The court has mandatory jurisdiction in all civil, non-capital and juvenile cases appealed from trial courts and discretionary jurisdiction over most appeals from administrative agencies. The court acts in three-judge panels and at least two judges must agree to decide a case. Attorneys in the Prehearing Division screen appeals for assignment to the court's summary and general calendars. Staff attorneys provide the court with proposed opinions and recommendations on applications for interlocutory appeals, petitions for writs of certiorari and petitions for writs of error. Mediation is available for any matter pending before the court.



*Judge Michael E. Vigil is sworn in as chief judge of the Court of Appeals in January 2015 by his predecessor in the position, Judge Roderick T. Kennedy.*



*Standing Left to Right: Judge M. Monica Zamora, Judge Linda M. Vanzi, Judge Roderick T. Kennedy, Judge Timothy L. Garcia and Judge J. Miles Hanisee.  
Seated Left to Right: Judge Jonathan B. Sutin, Judge James J. Wechsler, Chief Judge Michael E. Vigil, Judge Michael D. Bustamante and Judge Cynthia A. Fry.*

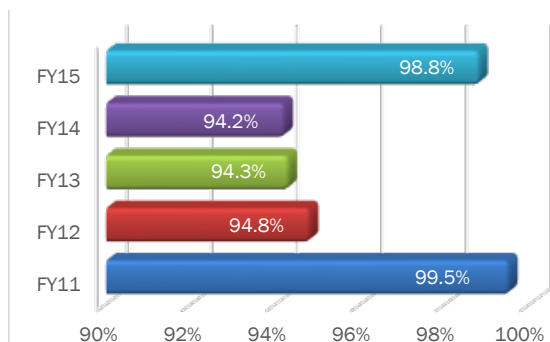
# The Courts

## Supreme Court

- ◆ 5 justices serving 8-year terms
- ◆ 35 full-time employees

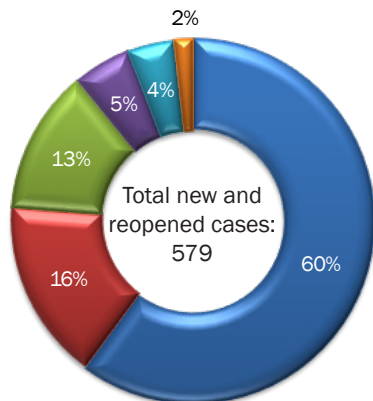
<https://nmsupremecourt.nmcourts.gov>

### Disposition Rate



Disposition rate measures whether a court is keeping up with incoming cases. A rate below 100% indicates a court resolved fewer cases than were filed or reopened within a fiscal year, which increases the number of pending cases. A court will reduce backlogged cases with a disposition rate above 100%.

### 2015 Fiscal Year Caseload



- Review Court of Appeal Rulings
- Extraordinary Writs
- Review Habeas Corpus Denials
- Capital, other criminal, PRC, elections
- Attorney, judicial discipline, regulation
- All other case types

### Accomplishments:

- First appellate court to implement a new electronic case management system, known as Odyssey, which has been in place in the lower courts. Case-type categories for statistical tracking in the Supreme Court have been revised going forward as part of the Odyssey system implementation on June 1.
- Established the Ad Hoc Pretrial Release Committee to consider bail reforms, including a constitutional amendment to authorize judges to hold the most dangerous defendants without bond pending trial. The committee was formed after the Court's decision in *State v. Brown*, 2014-NMSC-038, to study and propose changes in pretrial release procedures.
- Continued the work of the Bernalillo County Criminal Justice Review Commission by establishing it as a court-appointed ad hoc committee as of July 1. The BCCJRC is to recommend improvements in the criminal justice system in the state's largest county.

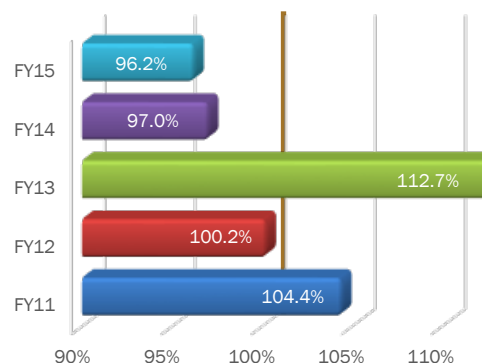
## Court of Appeals

- ◆ 10 judges, three in Santa Fe and seven in Albuquerque

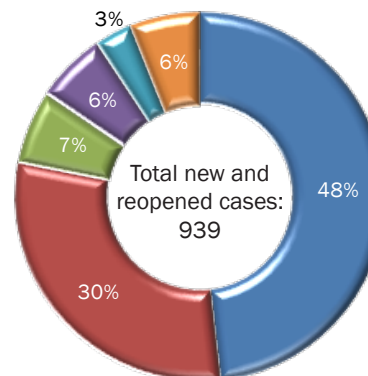
- ◆ 51 full-time employees, including 15 attorneys in the Prehearing Division

<https://coa.nmcourts.gov>

### Disposition Rate



### 2015 Fiscal Year Caseload



- Criminal
- General Civil
- Discretionary
- Domestic
- Administrative/Workers' Comp
- Children's Court

### Accomplishments:

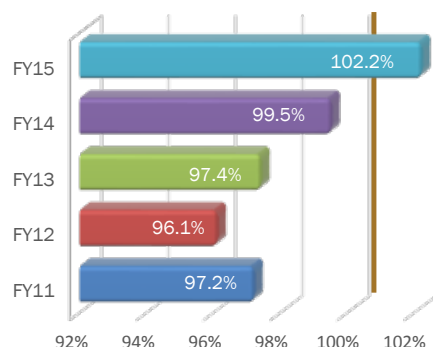
- Reduced case backlog to historic low: 155 cases awaiting decision at FY15 close.
- 86 cases mediated by the Appellate Mediation Office, 48.5% resolved through voluntary settlement.
- Highest case filings in eight years, 939.
- Highest case dispositions since FY2007, 903, with 713 opinions, 170 orders, 13 certifications, and 7 transfers.

# The Courts

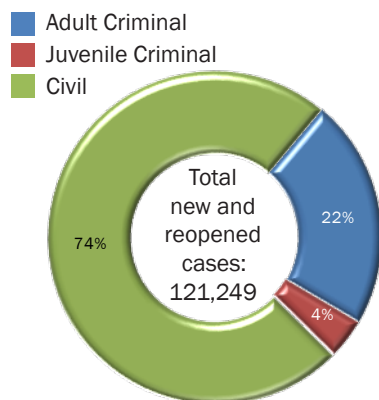
## District Courts Statewide

District courts are general jurisdiction trial courts. They hear and determine adult and juvenile criminal cases as well as civil matters, including domestic relations, contract disputes and personal injury litigation. There were 94 district judges in the 2015 fiscal year.

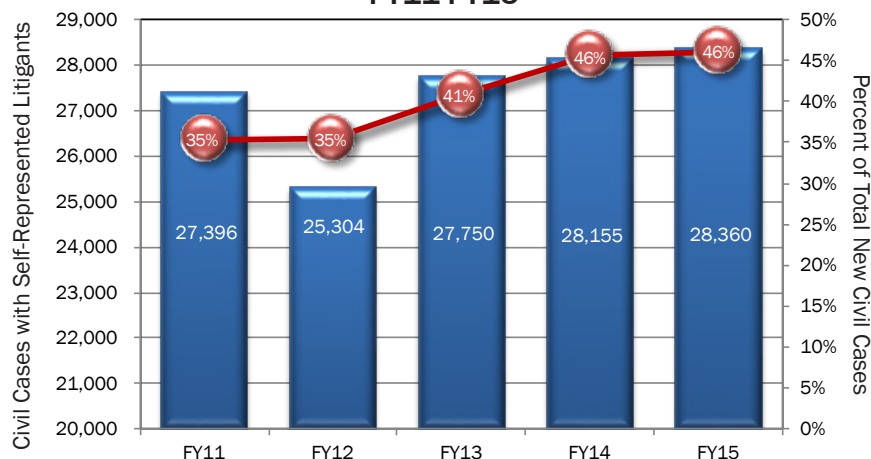
**District Courts Statewide  
Disposition Rate**



**FY15 Statewide Caseload**



**New Civil Cases with Self-Represented Litigants  
FY11-FY15**



Courts are serving more self-represented litigants in civil cases, which adds to the demands on judges and staff as they ensure access to justice for those unfamiliar with legal procedures.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Judicial District

Santa Fe, Rio Arriba and Los Alamos Counties

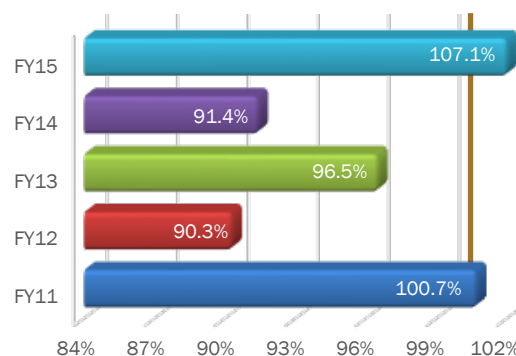
♦ 9 judges ♦ 91 full-time employees

◇ 5 language access specialists

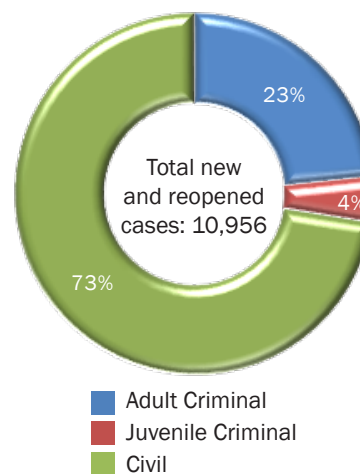
◇ District population, 205,623

<https://firstdistrictcourt.nmcourts.gov>

**Disposition Rate**



**2015 Fiscal Year Caseload**



### Accomplishments:

- 17 criminal jury trials and 6 non-jury trials. Jury trial number adjusted for data entry change.
- 55 civil jury and bench trials.
- 28 graduates of adult and juvenile drug courts.
- 101 children in abuse and neglect cases served by CASA volunteers.
- 217 defendants referred to pre-trial services.
- 65% of mediation cases reached agreement in Family Court Services program.

*Did you know ...  
Santa Fe, founded in 1610, is the oldest city that's a state capital.*



# The Courts

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District

Bernalillo County

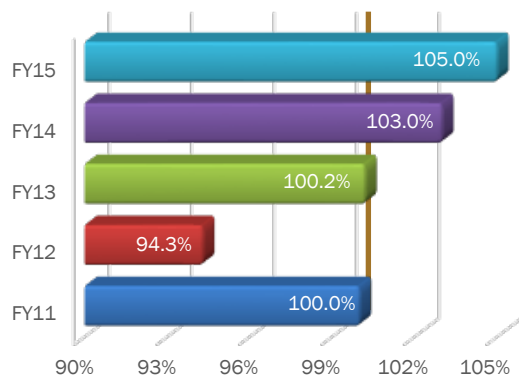
♦ 27 judges ♦ 357 full-time employees

♦ 10 hearing officers

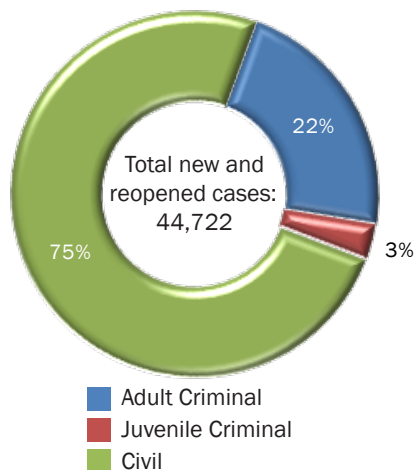
♦ District population, 675,551

<http://seconddistrictcourt.nmcourts.gov/>

### Disposition Rate



### 2015 Fiscal Year Caseload



### Accomplishments:

- 182 criminal jury trials and 13 non-jury trials.
- 68 civil jury and bench trials.
- Implemented case management order establishing strict deadlines for resolving felony cases or having them go to trial within a year, depending on their complexity.
- 89 graduates from adult, juvenile and DWI drug courts.
- 212 children in abuse and neglect cases served by CASA volunteers.
- 17,847 self-represented litigants assisted by Self-Help Center.
- 7% recidivism rate for Veteran's Court program graduates.

*Did you know ...*  
Bernalillo County's first constructed courthouse cost \$62,053 in 1886.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District

Doña Ana County

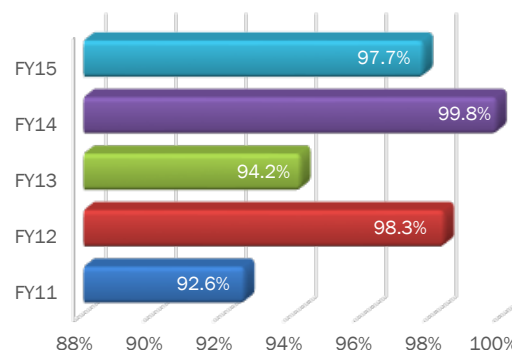
♦ 8 judges ♦ 86 full-time employees

♦ 6 language access specialists ♦ 1 child support hearing officer ♦ 1 domestic violence special commissioner

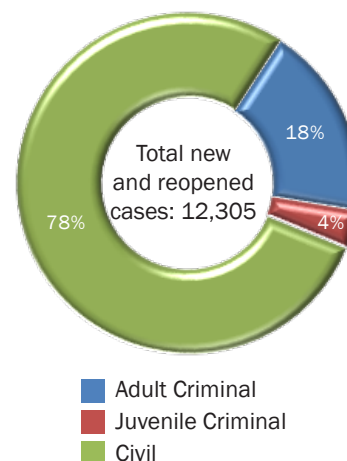
♦ District population, 213,676

<http://www.thirddistrictcourt.com>

### Disposition Rate



### 2015 Fiscal Year Caseload



### Accomplishments:

- 45 criminal jury trials and 6 non-jury trials.
- 34 civil jury and bench trials.
- 38 graduates of adult, juvenile and family drug courts.
- 283 children in abuse and neglect cases served by CASA volunteers.
- Doubled Self-Help Center staff from two to four, serving 60-70 people daily.
- Partnered with New Mexico Legal Aid to host monthly divorce clinics for self-represented litigants.

*Did you know ...*  
Doña Ana County was created in 1852, and is New Mexico's 2nd largest chile producer.



# The Courts

## 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District San Miguel, Guadalupe and Mora Counties

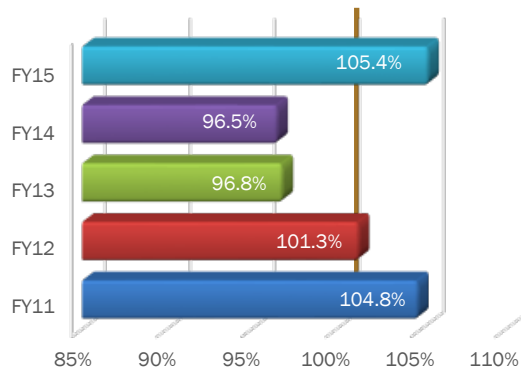
♦ 3 judges ♦ 27 full-time employees

♦ 2 language specialists

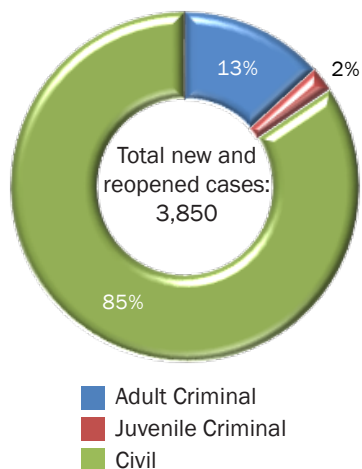
♦ District population, 37,299

<http://fourthdistrictcourt.nmcourts.gov/>

### Disposition Rate



### 2015 Fiscal Year Caseload



### Accomplishments:

- 6 criminal jury trials and 1 non-jury trial.
- 4 civil bench trials.
- 183 self-represented clients served by two dozen Family Law Pro Se Clinics.
- 94 individuals received free legal advice at the annual Pro Bono Legal Fair.
- 12 graduates of adult and juvenile drug courts.
- 29 children in abuse and neglect cases served by CASA volunteers.

*Did you know ...  
San Miguel County was among nine counties created by the Territorial Legislature in 1852.*

## 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Chaves, Eddy and Lea Counties

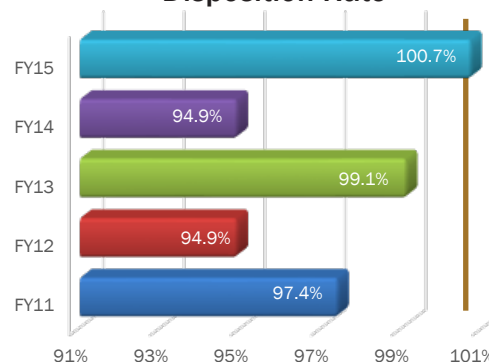
♦ 11 judges ♦ 72 full-time employees

♦ 5 language access specialists ♦ 2 domestic violence hearing officers

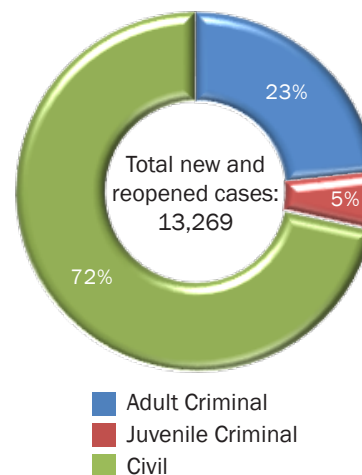
♦ District population, 192,272

<https://fifthdistrictcourt.nmcourts.gov>

### Disposition Rate



### 2015 Fiscal Year Caseload



### Accomplishments:

- 138 criminal jury trials and 53 non-jury trials.
- 42 civil bench trials.
- 14 graduates of juvenile and family drug courts districtwide.
- 4,626 hours of community service imposed in 109 Teen Court cases.
- 212 children in abuse and neglect cases served by CASA volunteers.

*Did you know ...  
Eddy and Lea counties led New Mexico's oil production with nearly 116 million barrels in 2014.*

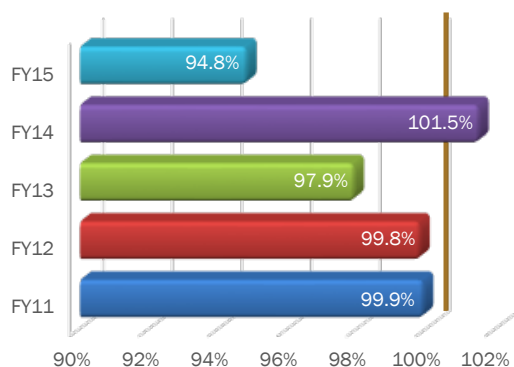
# The Courts

## 6<sup>th</sup> Judicial District

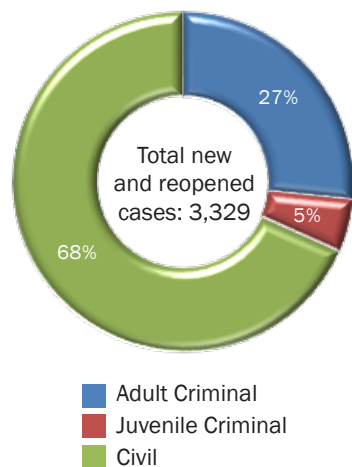
Grant, Luna and Hidalgo Counties

- ◆ 4 judges ◆ 33 full-time employees
- ◆ 2 special masters ◆ 4 language access specialists
- ◆ District population, 58,329

### Disposition Rate



### 2015 Fiscal Year Caseload



### Accomplishments:

- 38 criminal trials; 6 non-jury trials.
- 8 civil jury and bench trials.
- 19 graduates of adult and juvenile drug courts.
- 74 children in abuse and neglect cases served by CASA volunteers.
- Juvenile Justice Continuum of Services Board helped fund the Hidalgo County Youth Rodeo.

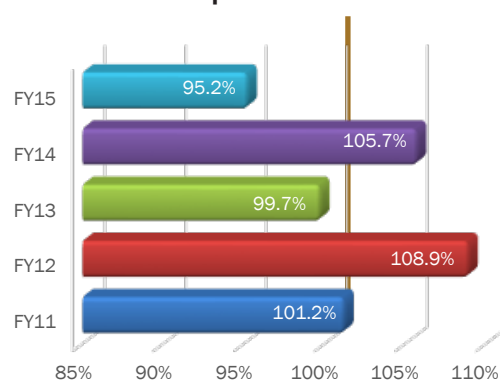
*Did you know ...*  
New Mexico's first open pit copper mine began production in 1910 near Silver City.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District

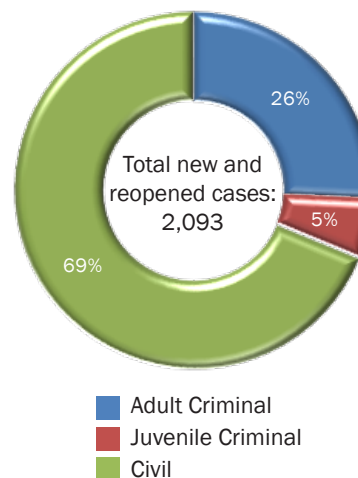
Catron, Sierra, Socorro and Torrance Counties

- ◆ 3 judges ◆ 31 full-time employees
- ◆ 1 child support hearing officer
- ◆ District population, 47,802

### Disposition Rate



### 2015 Fiscal Year Caseload



### Accomplishments:

- 6 criminal jury trials; 2 non-jury trials.
- 10 civil jury and bench trials.
- 7 graduates of adult drug courts.
- 112 children in abuse and neglect cases by CASA volunteers.
- Mediation program to help resolve domestic relations cases.
- Contract domestic violence special commissioner assigned to domestic violence cases.

*Did you know ...*  
New Mexico's largest judicial district covers over 21,000 square miles, roughly the land area of Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

# The Courts

## 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District

Taos, Colfax and Union Counties

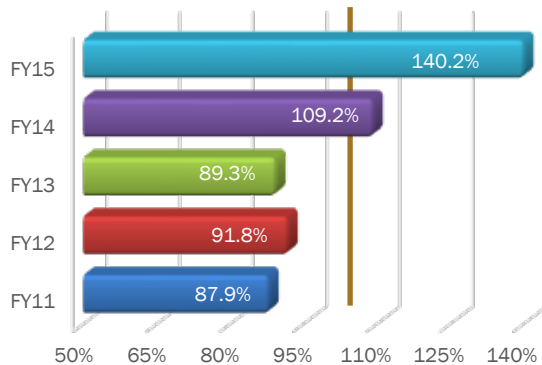
◆ 3 judges ◆ 32 full-time employees

◇ 1 special commissioner/domestic relations hearing officer

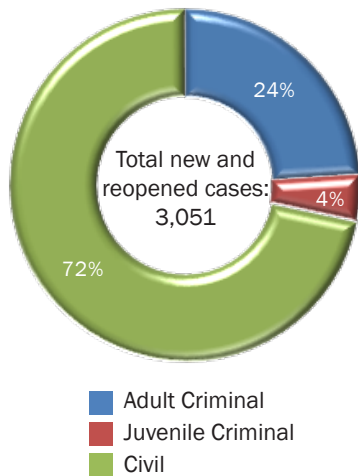
◇ District population, 50,061

<http://www.eighthjudicialdistrictcourt.com>

### Disposition Rate



### 2015 Fiscal Year Caseload



### Accomplishments:

- 11 criminal jury trials; 4 non-jury trials.
- 4 civil bench trials.
- 32 graduates of adult and juvenile drug courts; 15% average recidivism rate.
- 94 children in abuse and neglect cases served by CASA volunteers.
- Newly created alternative dispute resolution (ADR) program handled 50 cases, mostly involving self-represented litigants.

*Did you know ...*  
*The Union County Courthouse in Clayton, built in 1909, is on the National Register of Historic Places. The two-story domed building reflects a classical style of architecture from the 1909 World's Fair.*

## 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial District

Curry and Roosevelt Counties

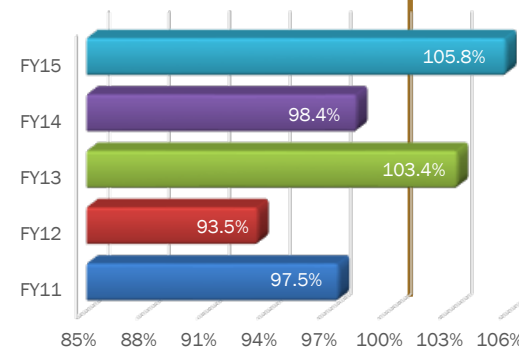
◆ 5 judges ◆ 45 full-time employees

◇ 2 language access specialists ◇ 2 child support hearing officers

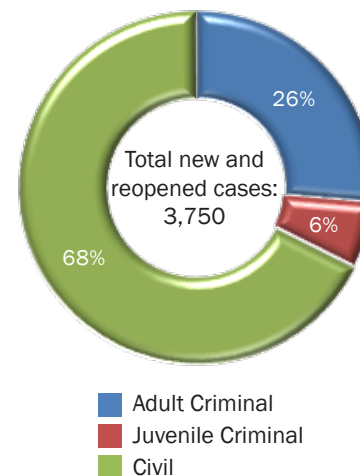
◇ District population, 70,505

<http://www.nmcourts9thjdc.com>

### Disposition Rate



### 2015 Fiscal Year Caseload



### Accomplishments:

- 40 criminal jury trials and 13 non-jury trials.
- 3 civil bench trials.
- 17 adult drug court graduates.
- 62 children in abuse and neglect cases served by CASA volunteers.
- 39 free pro se clinics offering legal advice to about 200 individuals; mobile clinic helps low-income homebound individuals.
- Hosted National Adoption Day event, with 9 adoptions and about 75 people attending.

*Did you know ...*  
*Roosevelt County was created in 1903, named after President Theodore Roosevelt. Curry County was established six years later.*

# The Courts

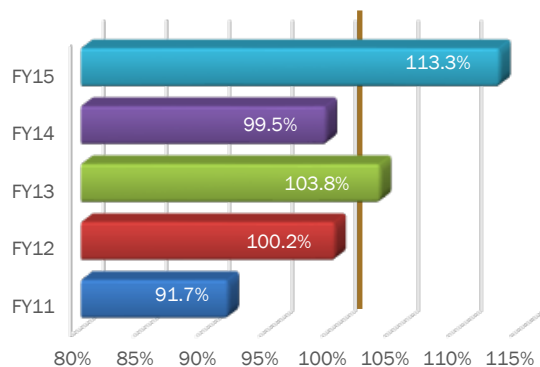
## 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial District

De Baca, Harding and Quay Counties

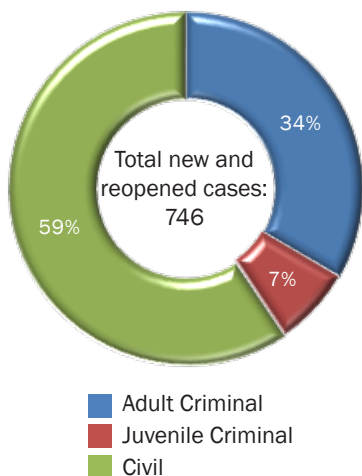
♦ 1 judge ♦ 8 full-time employees

◇ District population, 11,009

### Disposition Rate



### 2015 Fiscal Year Caseload



### Accomplishments:

- 5 criminal jury trials and 2 non-jury trials.
- 3 civil jury and bench trials.
- All clerks cross-trained to docket all case types and monitor hearings.
- Created a financial specialist by reclassifying a half-time position.
- Secured \$200,000 in capital funding for security improvements to Quay County Courthouse.

*Did you know ...  
The judge travels about 14,000 miles a year or the equivalent of 35 business days in the car.*

## 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial District

San Juan and McKinley Counties

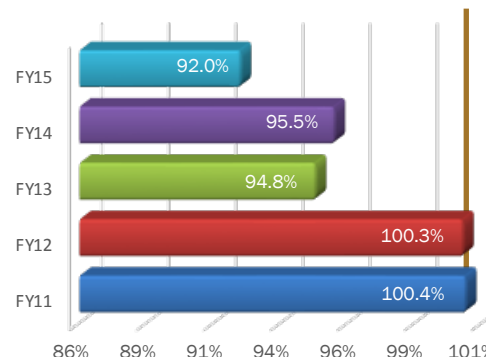
♦ 8 judges ♦ 89 full-time employees

◇ 1 domestic violence commissioner and child support hearing officer

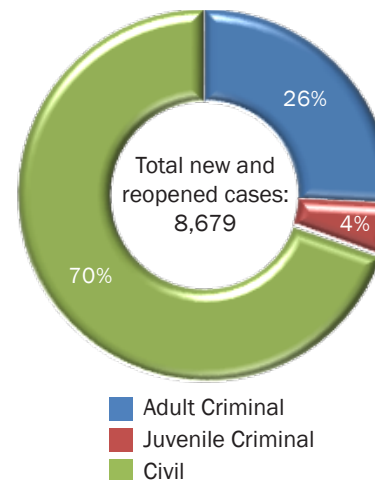
◇ District population, 197,883

<https://11thjdc.nmcourts.gov/>

### Disposition Rate



### 2015 Fiscal Year Caseload



### Accomplishments:

- 48 criminal jury trials and 37 non-jury trials.
- 15 civil jury and bench trials.
- Mediators resolved 143 custody-visitation cases, 48% of assignments.
- 22 adults and 8 juveniles graduated from drug courts.
- 32 participants in Grade Court enrolled in college, a unique program providing an educational component to juvenile drug court.
- McKinley County District Court received DWI Awareness Day award for outstanding service to the community.

*Did you know ...  
The county courthouse in Gallup was built in 1938 and features New Deal artwork, including 10-foot murals that depict the history of McKinley County and the Southwest.*



# The Courts

## 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District

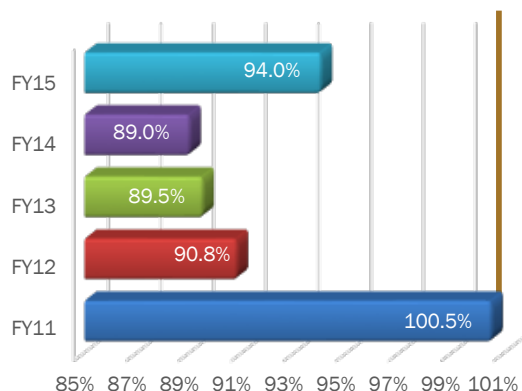
Lincoln and Otero Counties

◆ 4 judges ◆ 41 full-time employees

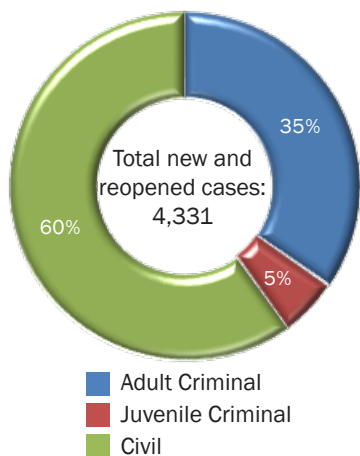
- ◆ 1 language access specialist
- ◆ District population, 84,788

<http://www.12thdistrict.net/>

### Disposition Rate



### 2015 Fiscal Year Caseload



### Accomplishments:

- 68 criminal jury trials and 4 non-jury trials.
- 11 civil jury and bench trials.
- 26 graduates from adult and juvenile drug courts.
- 138 children in abuse and neglect cases served by CASA volunteers.
- Self-Help Center used 4,455 times by the public.
- Lincoln County District Courthouse expansion completed.
- Expanded mediation program to assist all case types.

*Did you know ...*  
The district covers over 11,000 square miles, and is home to the Mescalero Indian Reservation, Holloman Air Force Base, White Sands National Monument, the National Solar Observatory and part of White Sands Missile Range.

## 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District

Cibola, Sandoval and Valencia Counties

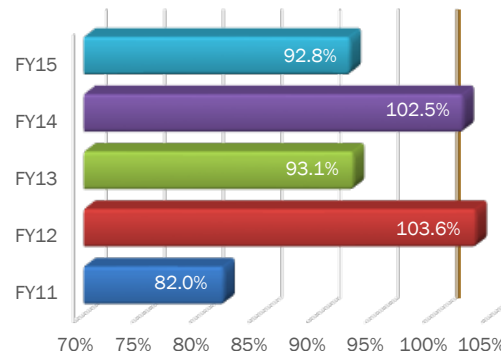
◆ 8 judges ◆ 86 full-time employees

- ◆ 3 hearing officers for domestic violence, child support, family relations cases

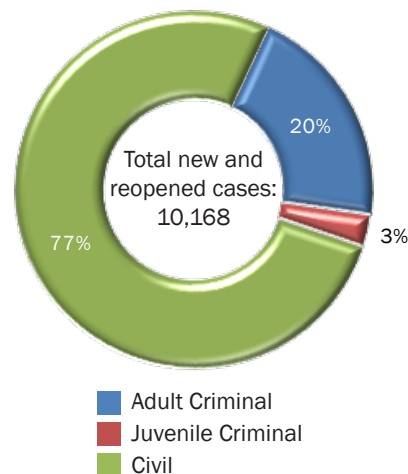
◆ District population, 240,774

<http://www.13districtcourt.com/>

### Disposition Rate



### 2015 Fiscal Year Caseload



### Accomplishments:

- 32 criminal jury trials and 20 non-jury trials.
- 27 civil jury and bench trials.
- 94 graduates of adult and juvenile drug courts, family dependency treatment court and mental health treatment court.
- Pre-trial services programs completed supervision of 275 people.
- Foreclosure settlement program resolved 37 of 45 cases for which it provided full alternative dispute resolution services.
- Domestic relations mediation settled 406 of 794 cases.
- 1,002 visitors helped at 36 free legal clinics.

*Did you know ...*  
The district's population has grown 33% since the 2000 Census and its land area is nearly the size of Maryland.

## The Courts

# Metropolitan Court

♦ 19 judges ♦ 340 full-time employees

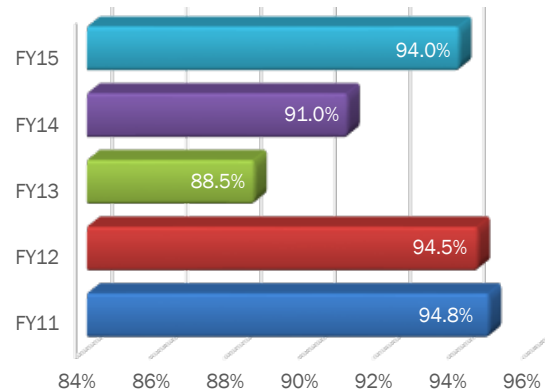
<https://www.metrocourt.state.nm.us>

The Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court was created in 1980, consolidating responsibilities of the county's Magistrate Court, the Albuquerque Municipal Court and Small Claims Court. Judges, who serve four-year terms, must be members of the State Bar and have practiced law for at least three years. It is a limited jurisdiction court, which handles misdemeanors, traffic violations, DWI cases, civil actions up to \$10,000 and conducts first appearances for felony defendants.

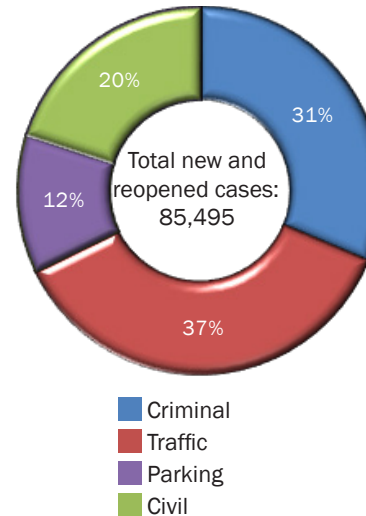


Metropolitan Court, Albuquerque

Disposition Rate



2015 Fiscal Year Caseload



### Accomplishments:

- 3,900 criminal jury trials. Data may not be comparable to previous years because of parameter changes with new case management system implemented in Metro Court in FY15.
- Began using a statistically validated risk assessment tool to help in setting conditions of release and bail bond amounts.
- 375 clients in DWI-Drug Court, Mental Health Court and Homeless Court.
- 1,877 defendants with ignition interlocks monitored by Probation Division.
- 178,962 customers served by staff at register stations and through phone calls.
- 14,887 people assisted by Self-Help Center with in-person and telephone interviews.
- Nearly 1,000 hours of mediation by volunteers to resolve about 500 cases.
- Re-established the Urban Native American Track in the DWI-Drug Court Program to encourage participants to reconnect with their tribal traditions while providing treatment and counseling.
- 25 enrolled in Veterans' Track of the Domestic Violence Early Intervention Program. Veterans with domestic violence charges are matched with a mentor to help complete counseling and supervision.

## Magistrate Courts

♦ 48 courts ♦ 67 judges ♦ 221 full-time employees

Magistrate courts have limited jurisdiction and handle DWI cases, misdemeanors, traffic violations, civil actions up to \$10,000 and may hold preliminary hearings to determine probable cause on felony charges. Magistrate judges are not required to be lawyers except in Dona Ana County. Judges serve four-year terms and must run for election in partisan elections.

Magistrate courts are sometimes referred to as the “people’s court.” Citizens often present their own cases and magistrate courts have the largest caseload. By law, there must be at least one court in each county but some counties have more than magistrate court.

### Facilities:

**Portales** Contract awarded for general construction of new court building, with completion projected for early fiscal year 2017.



**Magistrate Court, Gallup**

areas and security upgrades including remotely controlled locks and panic alarms.

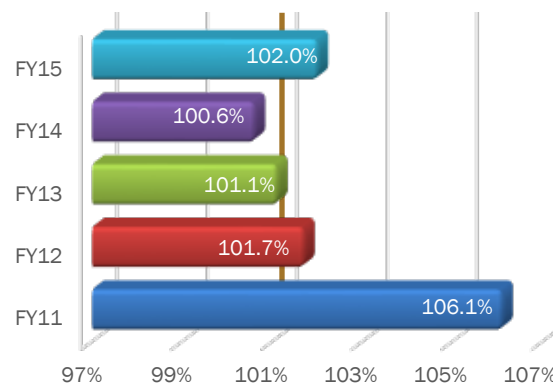
**Mora** Consulting engineers confirmed that the courthouse project was viable but structural and site remediation would be required to move forward with the existing building shell that had remained empty for several years.

**Aztec** Dedication ceremony in September 2014 for completion of a retrofit and expansion of the courthouse, including new furnishings.

**Lordsburg** Renovation of the courtroom, including expanded public seating, new judicial bench and installation of state-of-the-art technology.

**Deming** Completed interior retrofit with construction of a new courtroom, improved holding

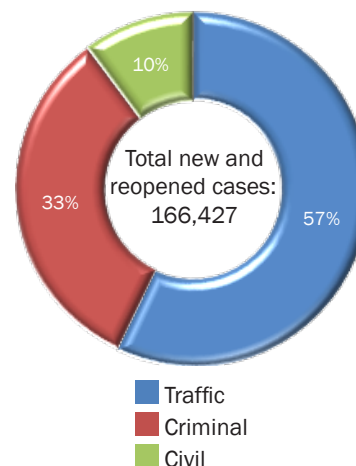
### Disposition Rate



### Accomplishments:

- 428 criminal jury trials and 13,602 non-jury trials.
- 1,159 civil jury and bench trials.
- 49 graduates from drug court programs in Dona Ana, Eddy, San Miguel, Santa Fe, Torrance and Valencia counties. A new program will be operating in the San Juan County-Farmington Magistrate Court in January 2016.
- Warrant enforcement program collected nearly \$13.8 million in statutory fees, of which \$3.3 million consisted of bench warrant fees.

### 2015 Fiscal Year Caseload



## Problem-Solving Courts

New Mexico's 51 problem-solving courts offer an alternative to the costly revolving door of incarceration. The year-long programs treat the offender's addiction

or mental illness – what can drive repeat criminal behavior – while holding the offender accountable



through frequent drug tests, probation visits and judicial hearings. Offenders with alcohol and drug dependency problems are overseen by a judge and a team of professionals, including law enforcement, prosecutors, public defenders and treatment providers.

Studies have found that drug courts are:

- ◆ Three times more effective than prison in preventing re-arrest.
- ◆ Five times less expensive than prison.

Program Type	Graduates	Graduation Rate	Recidivism (re-arrest)	Daily Cost-Per-Client
Adult Drug Court	242	51%	23.6%	\$19.29
Juvenile Drug Court	114	50.7%	30%	\$42.72
DWI Drug Court	199	78%	8.2%	\$17.00
Family Dependency	22	50%	19.3%	\$24.80
Mental Health Court	108	65.5%	23%	\$13.25

## Alternative Dispute Resolution

The Statewide Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission was established by the Supreme Court to develop, organize and monitor court-connected programs offering alternatives to formal litigation. Dispute resolution includes mediation, settlement facilitation and arbitration. During the fiscal year, the commission:

- ◆ Expanded web site resources with an online video demonstration of mediation, a directory of district court ADR services and a “Quick Start Guide” to help courts implement ADR programs.
- ◆ Updated court rules for handling mediated agreements in the Metropolitan and Magistrate Courts.

- ◆ Trained judges and staff by awarding six mediation scholarships to the UNM School of Law and enrolling 21 judicial employees in ADR classes.
- ◆ Supported an expansion of mediation services in magistrate courts in Belen and Los Lunas, the Metropolitan Court and a pilot mediator mentoring program in the Dona Ana County Magistrate Court.
- ◆ Backed legislation for a sliding scale fee for district court ADR services.



# Children's Court Mediation Program

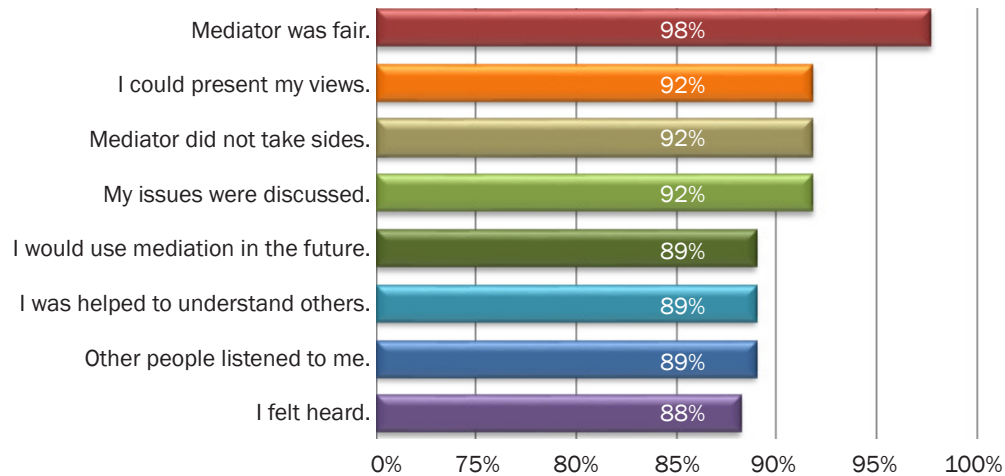
The program provides mediation services to child welfare families in abuse and neglect cases in district courts. The goal is to provide for a child's safety and well-being and a permanent family environment. The program served a record 852 referrals during the fiscal year and

*I came to the last decision for my child with peace of mind.*

-Family Member

families reported a high level of satisfaction based on anonymous assessments of their experience.

Family Participant Satisfaction with Children's Court Mediation



# Court Appointed Attorney Fund

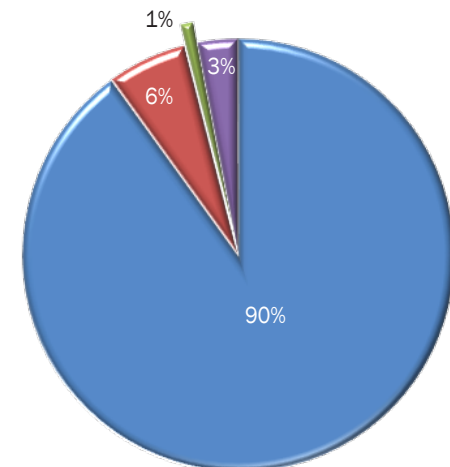
The New Mexico Judiciary is committed to providing quality legal representation for indigent parties in civil proceedings when the law requires that an attorney be appointed by a court. Among the clients served are children and parents in abuse and neglect cases. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) provides fiscal oversight, ensures compliance with contractual obligations by attorneys, and works collaboratively with the Court Improvement Project and the Corrine Wolfe Children's Law Center to offer attorneys free or reduced cost continuing education and trial skills training. During FY15:

- ◆ An improved compensation formula and administrative model was developed after an AOC analysis of contract attorney compensation, caseload allocation, and service delivery. Compensation formula to be implemented in FY17.

- ◆ 123 attorneys represented 4,200 clients in abuse and neglect proceedings.
- ◆ 23 attorneys provided legal services in mental health commitment proceedings, serving 3,800 clients, mostly juveniles.
- ◆ 6 appellate attorneys represented 26 clients in abuse and neglect cases.

- Contract attorneys for children and families in abuse and neglect cases
- Contract attorneys for indigent parties in mental health and other civil cases
- Non-contract attorneys
- CAAF administration and prior year payments

FY 15 CAAF Expenditures  
\$5.187 Total Appropriation



## Court Programs *and* Services

# Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking

A part-time staff attorney for the Administrative Office of the Courts focuses on improving how courts handle orders of protection for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. The work is funded through a federal Violence Against Women grant. Significant activities this year included better tracking and identifying orders of protection through the Judiciary's electronic case management system. Among the system improvements were new cause of action codes for minors who are the protected party in a case and new party types to clearly indicate when a minor is

a restrained party or that a minor had requested a protection order. During the fiscal year, the attorney also trained:

- ◆ 65 magistrate court judges.
- ◆ 12 New Mexico State Police officers.
- ◆ 43 District Court clerks.

# Adult Guardianship and Conservatorship

Efforts are under way by a part-time AOC staff attorney to improve the Judiciary's electronic case management system for cases in which a guardian or conservator

is appointed by a court for an incapacitated person. Those cases are handled through a sequestered civil court process. Court-appointed guardians make personal and

health care decisions for someone who is incapacitated, possibly because of a developmental disability or mental illness. Conservators are appointed by a court to manage the financial and/or property affairs of an incapacitated person. It's

vital that courts closely monitor guardians and conservators because an incapacitated person can lose significant rights and self-determination.

Among the improvements to the judicial monitoring process during the fiscal year:

- ◆ New process to automatically track when annual reports are due from a guardian or conservator.
- ◆ Computer coding to more accurately reflect the current activity in a case.



11th Judicial District, Gallup

# Court Programs *and* Services

## Water Rights Adjudication

Water rights adjudications are judicial proceedings to determine the extent and priority of all water rights in a particular watershed. The law requires the State Engineer to perform hydrographic surveys to assess the legal bases and characteristics of each water right. Once claims to water rights are identified by the State, claims may be settled, mediated, or litigated.

There are six active stream adjudications in New Mexico's state courts: the San Juan Basin, covering a large watershed in northwestern New Mexico; the Santa Fe, within Santa Fe County; the Lower Rio Grande, extending below Elephant Butte Reservoir; the Pecos River, spanning from Las Vegas south to Carlsbad; the Rio San Jose, occurring in midwestern New Mexico; and the Animas Underground Basin in Hidalgo County. In an effort to facilitate effective case management, the New Mexico Supreme Court has designated Court of Appeals Judge James Wechsler to preside over all adjudications except the Animas Underground Basin adjudication, presided over by District Court Judge J. C. Robinson.

Highlights of progress on basin-wide issues, including federal claims:

### Lower Rio Grande Adjudication

- ◆ Completion of Stream System Issue 101 (irrigation for pecans and all crops), August 2011.
- ◆ Completion of Stream System Issue 102 (EBID groundwater claim), October 2010.
- ◆ Stream System Issue 103 (priority date and amounts for domestic wells), Order designating issue, December 2009.
- ◆ Stream System Issue 104, Orders entered regarding sources and amounts of U.S. water interests, August 2012 & February 2014.

- ◆ Completion of Stream System Issue 105 (claims of Boyd Estate), February 2012.

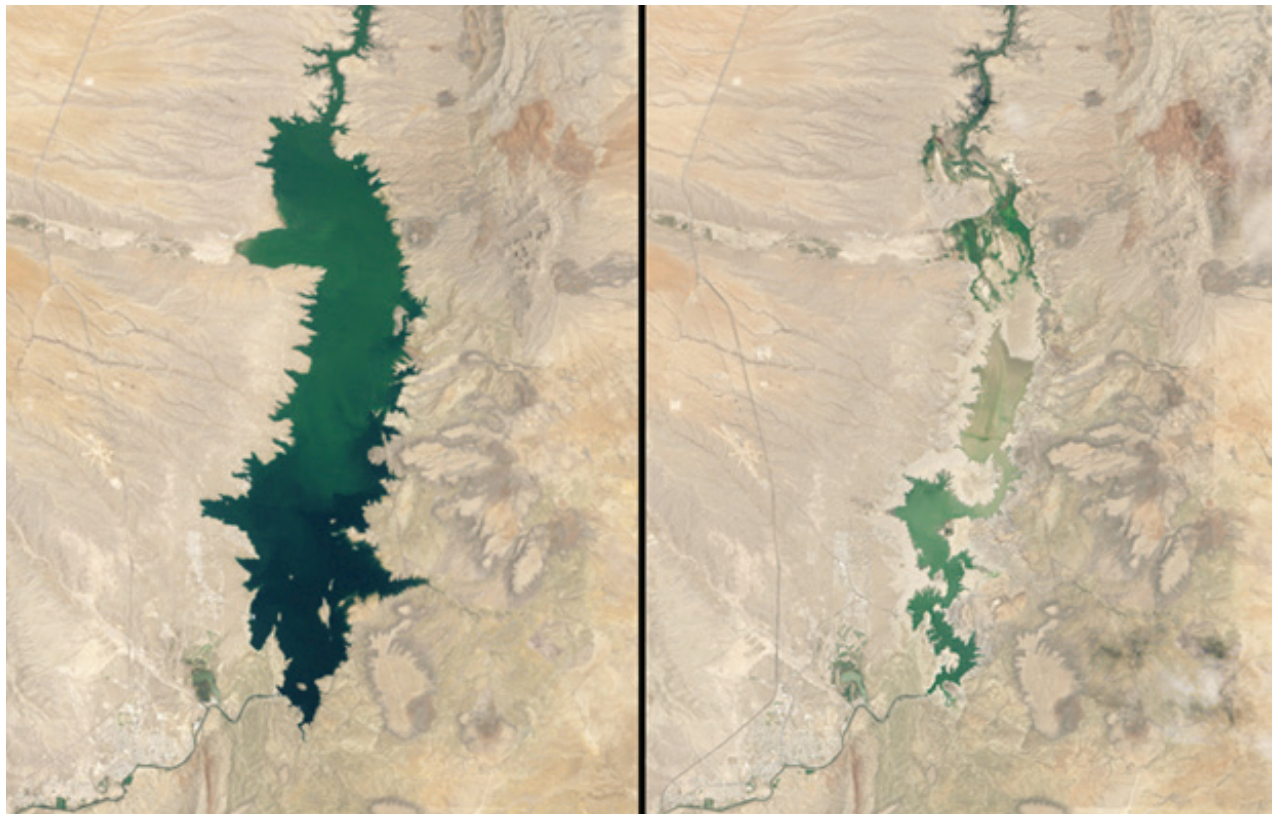
### San Juan River Basin Adjudication

- ◆ Completion of Stream System Issue 1 (measurement of amount and flow of water), July 2007.
- ◆ Completion of Stream System Issues 2 & 3 (determination of priority dates and amounts quantified), October 2007.

- ◆ Navajo Nation water rights settlement with the U.S. and New Mexico, executed December 2013.

### Pecos River Adjudication

- ◆ Order determining that all claimants are bound by the Hope Decree, entered January 2013.
- ◆ Commencement of the adjudication of the Cow Creek section, November 2015.



*Elephant Butte Reservoir, 1994 and 2013 (NASA)*



## Language Access Services

[languageaccess.nmcourts.gov](http://languageaccess.nmcourts.gov)  
[nmcenterforlanguageaccess.org](http://nmcenterforlanguageaccess.org)

Language Access Services (LAS) coordinates and funds courtroom interpreting services and recruits, trains and qualifies interpreters to ensure equal access to the state courts for Limited English Proficient, deaf and hard of hearing individuals. LAS also supports court staff, judges and court users by providing training, language access planning, document and website translation, signage, on-demand remote interpreting services and assistive listening equipment.

In FY15, Language Access Services:

- ◆ Provided courtroom interpreter services to an estimated 31,000 individuals.
- ◆ Accommodated 50 languages in our state's courts.
- ◆ Brought the total number of Language Access Specialists working in the courts up to 100. These certified bilingual court employees are unique to the New Mexico Judiciary, and ensure the delivery of meaningful services in and out of courtroom settings.
- ◆ Hosted annual conference of the national Council of Language Access Coordinators

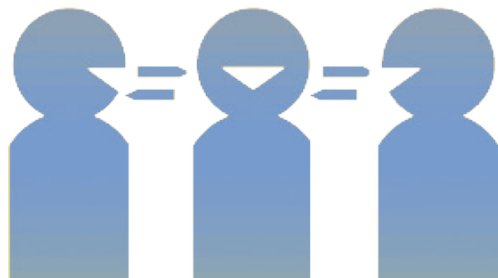
in Santa Fe. Supreme Court Chief Justice Barbara Vigil and Justice Edward Chávez spoke at the conference.

- ◆ Continued to develop an interpreter training and certification program for Navajo and Pueblo languages. A grant of \$112,000 was secured from the State Justice Institute for the Improving Access to Justice for Native Peoples in State Courts Project, which is led by AOC in collaboration with experts in the legal and Pueblo and Navajo language fields.
- ◆ Started preparing a web site portal for judges that will include videos, rules, standards of practice, FAQs and other useful resources related to language access.
- ◆ Began developing a downloadable court interpreter orientation in collaboration with the Kentucky, Minnesota, Idaho, Texas, Alaska, Michigan and Nevada State Courts. The goal is to develop an easy-to-use, self-paced orientation for prospective court interpreters.

- ◆ Research and testing of remote interpreting services for spoken and signed languages.
- ◆ Launched the Literacy Challenges Working Group, a collective of professionals committed to improving access to justice for court users who cannot read or complete paperwork due to Limited English Proficiency, disability or illiteracy.

*There are a number of states and their residents, no doubt a majority of them, that would benefit greatly by adapting the practices of the NM Center for Language Access. Thank you for your equalizing and fair service.*

- Kate Collins of Santa Fe, in a letter to the Santa Fe New Mexican titled "Thanks, Interpreters"





# Commission on Access to Justice

The Commission on Access to Justice was formed by the Supreme Court in 2004 to expand and improve civil legal assistance to New Mexicans living in poverty. Over one of every five New Mexicans lives in poverty, according to the Census Bureau.

The court approved in January 2015 a new state plan by the commission. Among the recommendations is for greater use of technology, such as video conferencing, to deliver legal services to those living in rural areas.

The commission worked with New Mexico Legal Aid and the State Bar during the 2014 calendar year to organize events providing free or reduced-cost legal assistance.

At a glance:

- ◆ 46,306 people served, an 85% increase.
- ◆ 546 attorneys provided legal aid, a 13% increase.

The commission also is working to amend court rules to:

- ◆ Help the Law Offices of the Public Defender recruit attorneys from other states to come to New Mexico to represent indigent criminal defendants.
- ◆ Clarify the ability of attorneys to offer limited legal representation to self-represented litigants, including ghostwriting of legal documents signed and filed by the pro se litigant.

# Committee for the Improvement of Jury Service

The Supreme Court's Committee for the Improvement of Jury Service and the Administrative Office of the Courts explored new procedures to improve jury service, identified new technology and provided support for court personnel to help courts better address the needs of jurors.

At a glance:

- ◆ More than 155,000 jurors summoned by district, metropolitan and magistrate courts in FY15.
- ◆ 9% increase in the availability of potential jurors to serve.
- ◆ Streamlined jury orientations saved an estimated \$350,000. Orientation sessions separate from jury selection days were eliminated.
- ◆ Standardized jury yield reporting became mandatory to measure the number of jurors summoned against the number available to serve.

- ◆ Created a YouTube mobile friendly Jury Orientation video as part of upgrades to the Judiciary's jury web site, <http://www.nmcourts.gov/jury>. Juror forms are available on the web site in Spanish and Navajo.



The Administrative Office of the Courts restructured its Court Services Division in January 2015 to form the Children and Family Services Department, which encompasses Safe Exchange and Supervised Visitation (SESV), Tribal-State Judicial Consortium, Children's Court Improvement Project (CIP), Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).

## Safe Exchange and Supervised Visitation

<https://safeexchange.newcourts.gov>

District courts refer divorce, separation, custody, parentage and domestic violence cases to local service providers who monitor visits and exchanges in safe, child-friendly environments to protect children and remove them from the middle of parental disputes. New Mexico has 14 SESV providers assisting families in 18 counties in support of nine

district courts. During the fiscal year:

- ◆ 2,941 children and adults served, a 22% increase.
- ◆ 12,585 supervised visits and safe exchanges, a 4% increase.
- ◆ 15,272 hours of service provided, a 5% increase.

## Tribal-State Judicial Consortium

The consortium is a Supreme Court advisory body that consists of seven state and seven tribal judges working to improve relationships and communication across jurisdictional lines.

During the fiscal year, consortium members:

- ◆ Identified Isleta Pueblo as a pilot for New Mexico to establish detention alternatives in Indian Country.

- ◆ Conducted training on Indian Child Welfare Act issues for qualified expert witnesses.
- ◆ Drafted model tribal orders to be presented to the Supreme Court for approval.
- ◆ Attended Children's Law Institute and Magistrate Court Conference.
- ◆ Toured Taos Pueblo's Butterfly Healing Center, which provides substance abuse and mental health treatment.

## Children's Court Improvement Project

[www.nmcourts.com/CourtImprovement](http://www.nmcourts.com/CourtImprovement)

The Supreme Court's Children's Court Improvement Commission works to improve the child welfare system and judicial proceedings related to child abuse and neglect, foster care and adoption. The commission includes judges and representatives of the Children, Youth and Families Department,

the Public Education Department, foster parent and youth organizations, and advocacy groups for children. During the fiscal year, the commission:

- ◆ Signed an agreement for data sharing by CYFD, PED and the Judiciary to identify barriers to student learning.
- ◆ Convened meetings of local child welfare,

juvenile and school professionals to improve educational outcomes for youth in the child welfare or juvenile justice systems.

- ◆ Conducted listening tours on improving legal representation of children.
- ◆ Marked the 22<sup>nd</sup> year of the Children's Law Institute, which drew over 1,000 registrants.

# Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative

A memorandum of understanding was executed between the Children, Youth and Families Department, New Mexico Association of Counties, and the Courts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of juvenile justice systems without sacrificing public safety. The goals:

- ◆ Decrease the number of youth who are unnecessarily or inappropriately detained.
- ◆ Reduce the number of youth who fail to appear in court or re-offend pending adjudication.

- ◆ Redirect public funds spent on incarceration towards alternative programs that hold youth accountable.
- ◆ Reduce the disproportionate representation of minority youth in the juvenile justice system.

A Statewide Leadership Team was established and started to develop a work plan for New Mexico. The team conducted a site assessment in San Juan County to assess its readiness to undertake juvenile justice reforms.

## Court Appointed Special Advocates

CASA is a network of volunteers who provide foster children with individualized advocacy and attention as the children move through the child welfare system. Volunteers serve as the eyes and ears of the court, providing judges with reports and recommendations to make the best possible decision for each child.

CASA at a glance:

- ◆ 16 programs with offices in 21 communities.
- ◆ 787 trained and supervised volunteers.
- ◆ 1,855 foster children served.

New Mexico's 16 local, independent CASA programs speak up for children in 29 counties.

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| ◆ Bernalillo | ◆ Mora       |
| ◆ Catron     | ◆ Otero      |
| ◆ Chaves     | ◆ Rio Arriba |
| ◆ Cibola     | ◆ Roosevelt  |
| ◆ Colfax     | ◆ Sandoval   |
| ◆ Curry      | ◆ San Juan   |
| ◆ Doña Ana   | ◆ San Miguel |
| ◆ Eddy       | ◆ Santa Fe   |
| ◆ Grant      | ◆ Sierra     |
| ◆ Guadalupe  | ◆ Socorro    |
| ◆ Hidalgo    | ◆ Taos       |
| ◆ Lea        | ◆ Torrance   |
| ◆ Lincoln    | ◆ Union      |
| ◆ Los Alamos | ◆ Valencia   |
| ◆ Luna       |              |



## Technology and Case Management

The Judicial Information Division (JID) is the technology arm of the New Mexico Judiciary. One of its primary missions is administering a state-of-the-art computer system for court case management. The system known as Odyssey began implementation in November 2008, and facilitates electronic court record filing and case processing by court personnel. Trial courts finished conversion to the system in 2012, and full Judiciary-wide implementation will be completed in the first quarter of FY2017 with the inclusion of the Court of Appeals. JID also administers a statewide video network, which permits connections between courts and jails for video arraignments. These remote video arraignments ease security concerns by eliminating the need to transport prisoners from a detention center to the courthouse. FY15 highlights:

- ◆ Started implementing Odyssey for appellate courts. The Supreme Court began using the system in June 2015.
- ◆ Rollout of e-pay for the Metropolitan and Magistrate Courts statewide, allowing online payment of traffic tickets as well as fines and fees owed in criminal cases.
- ◆ Initiated conversion of water cases to Odyssey from a two-decades-old computer system. Completion of this project and the Court of Appeals case conversion will close out use of the outdated legacy FACTS system.
- ◆ Launched a pilot program of Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) in courts. Statewide implementation of the service is planned in fiscal year 2016. Telephone and video conferencing technology makes available interpreting services for individuals with

limited English proficiency and the deaf and hard of hearing when an interpreter is unable to travel to a court hearing. Future plans are to expand VRI services to assist the public with other court business, including at court clerk windows and self-help kiosks.

By the numbers:

**23,688** Help desk calls for assistance resolved.

**\$1.1 million** Collected through e-pay.

**63,637** E-pay transactions.

**1,331** Odyssey logins or transactions per day.

**46.7 million** Email messages processed.

**346,151** New and reopened cases filed.

**3,314** Active court user Odyssey accounts.

## Supreme Court Law Library

The Supreme Court Law Library is one of two public law libraries in New Mexico and is open to the public as well as members of the legal community. In fiscal year 2015, the library:

- ◆ Hired a permanent state law librarian, Lynne S. Rhys.
- ◆ Received 14,229 reference requests, a 16% increase.
- ◆ Served 5,761 non-court patrons, an 11% increase.
- ◆ Began a reorganization to permit easier access and adequate growth over time.
- ◆ Added a new circulation desk crafted by local artisans to match historic features of the Supreme Court Building.





The Supreme Court building opened in 1937 and is the only Public Works Administration project in New Mexico still in use for its original purpose. The Supreme Court Building Commission is responsible



for maintaining the building, which is on the National Register of Historic Places and the New Mexico Register of Cultural Properties. The Supreme Court courtroom retains its original hand carved woodwork, chandeliers and artwork. It looks today as it did when it was built.

During the fiscal year, the commission:

- ◆ Completed the replacement of the historic cork flooring in the Supreme Court Law Library.
- ◆ Secured capital outlay funding to begin a much-needed renovation of the building's exterior, including re-stuccoing, repair and replacement of balcony railings and other woodwork, and installation of a snow-melt system to protect historic flagstone walkways.

## Supreme Court Building Commission

The Compilation Commission is the official legal publisher of the state of New Mexico. It compiles the annual session laws into the official annotated statutes and publishes state appellate court opinions in an authenticated PDF format with a digital signature, court rules annotated, court-approved forms, administrative code, attorney general opinions and federal court opinions and rules. This content is maintained in a master database of copyrighted material from which print publications, DVDs, online subscription services and public access web sites are published, sold and distributed.

Legal publishing by the numbers:

**73.5 gigabytes** Size of digital databases maintained.

**26.3 million** Printed pages produced.

**158** Chaptered session laws.

**748** New and amended sections in *New Mexico Statutes Annotated 1978*.

**244** Court rule amendments in *New Mexico Rules Annotated*.

**696** Reported and unpublished New Mexico Supreme Court and Court of Appeals opinions.

**5** Full-time employees.



## New Mexico Compilation Commission

# Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission

The Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission was established by the Supreme Court in 1997 as a nonpartisan, volunteer group to provide voters with fair evaluations of judges seeking retention and offer information to judges about their performance. The evaluations look at a judge's legal ability, fairness, communication skills, preparation, attentiveness, temperament and control over court proceedings. During the fiscal year, the commission:

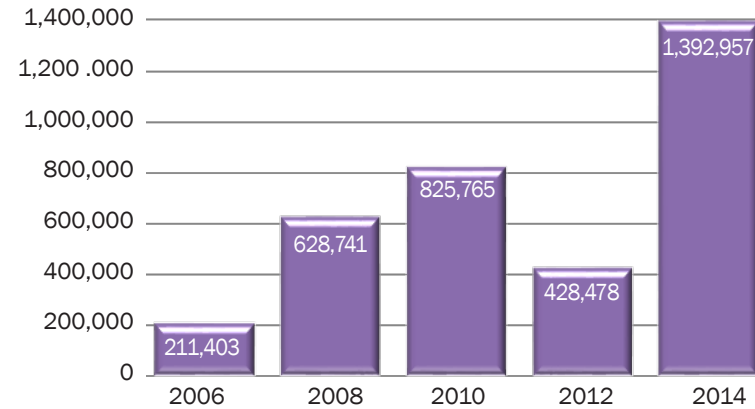
- ◆ Released recommendations to voters about 85 judges seeking retention in the 2014 general election. JPEC made two "do not retain" recommendations and issued one "no opinion."



- ◆ Improved its web site, [www.nmjpec.org](http://www.nmjpec.org), including posting condensed voter guides printable in English and Spanish. Web site visitors have increased significantly, as the chart below illustrates. Web site hits declined in 2012

when there was no advertising of the commission's recommendations for statewide judicial candidates.

Website Hits



# Human Resources

While we are proud of our FY15 accomplishments, none of them would have been possible without the dedicated and professional work of our 1,922 employees and judges. Our employees are the backbone of the New Mexico Judiciary and our goal is to continue to attract, develop, motivate and retain a qualified workforce within a supportive and dedicated work environment. The Administrative Office of the Courts' Human Resources Division (HRD) is critical to our efforts to achieve that goal.

During FY2015 the HRD:

- ◆ Worked closely with the Supreme Court's Workforce Investment Plan Committee studying, researching, and compiling pay

data for a statewide plan to compensate employees fairly and equitably. The pay proposal is part of the unified judicial budget request for FY17, and critical for the Judiciary to attract and retain qualified employees.

- ◆ Developed new, and audited current, job descriptions through the Classification Committee, including the revised and remeasured court clerk job series.
- ◆ Implemented a new employee orientation training available Judiciary-wide.
- ◆ Provided full human resources support to the AOC, including the Magistrate Courts.
- ◆ Provided statewide services to courts and

other judicial offices, including position recruitment and reclassification; pay for performance programs, salary adjustments and compensation initiatives; investigations into claims of harassment, discrimination and retaliation; personnel rule interpretation; and legal compliance guidance.

- ◆ Provided training and development opportunities to increase employees' professional proficiency in supervisory techniques and knowledge of critical employment laws.



**1st Judicial District Court**  
Santa Fe, Rio Arriba & Los Alamos

**2nd Judicial District Court**  
Bernalillo

**3rd Judicial District Court**  
Doña Ana

**4th Judicial District Court**  
San Miguel, Mora & Guadalupe

**5th Judicial District Court**  
Chaves, Eddy & Lea

**6th Judicial District Court**  
Grant, Hidalgo & Luna

**7th Judicial District Court**  
Torrance, Socorro, Catron & Sierra

**8th Judicial District Court**  
Taos, Colfax & Union

**9th Judicial District Court**  
Curry & Roosevelt

**10th Judicial District Court**  
Harding, De Baca & Quay

**11th Judicial District Court**  
San Juan & McKinley

**12th Judicial District Court**  
Otero & Lincoln

**13th Judicial District Court**  
Cibola, Sandoval & Valencia

**Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court**

**Supreme Court**

Santa Fe

**Court Of Appeals**

Santa Fe & Albuquerque

